

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

10. (New) A program reservation-and-recording apparatus which records a reserved program in a recording medium, comprising:

- a reservation-information input section which accepts a reservation for a program by a user;

- a reservation-information memory which stores reservation information which indicates the contents of a reservation for a program;

- a recording control section which records the program in the recording medium, based on the reservation information;

- a program-list acquisition section which makes a request to an information-providing server that is connected via a general-purpose network, and from the information-providing server, acquires a program list on which a program time is described for each program; and

- a reservation-information update section which updates the reservation information that is stored in the reservation-information memory, based on the acquired program list, wherein:

- a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time immediately before a program-recording start time which is described in the reservation information, and

- the program reservation-and-recording apparatus does not record an unreserved program portion before the reserved program, on a basis of the program list.

11. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list further includes a time immediately before a program-recording completion time which is described in the reservation information.

12. (New) A program reservation-and-recording apparatus which records a reserved program in a recording medium, comprising:

a reservation-information input section which accepts a reservation for a program by a user;

a reservation-information memory which stores reservation information which indicates the contents of a reservation for a program;

a recording control section which records the program in the recording medium, based on the reservation information;

a program-list acquisition section which makes a request to an information-providing server that is connected via a general-purpose network, and from the information-providing server, acquires a program list on which a program time is described for each program; and

a reservation-information update section which updates the reservation information that is stored in the reservation-information memory, based on the acquired program list, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time immediately before a program-recording completion time which is described in the reservation information; and

the program reservation-and-recording apparatus records an entire reserved program on a basis of the program list, and erases an unreserved program portion before the reserved program by the recording control section on a basis of the program list.

13. (New) A program reservation-and-recording apparatus which records a reserved program in a recording medium, comprising:

a reservation-information input section which accepts a reservation for a program by a user;

a reservation-information memory which stores reservation information which indicates the contents of a reservation for a program;

a recording control section which records the program in the recording medium, based on the reservation information;

a program-list acquisition section which makes a request to an information-providing server that is connected via a general-purpose network, and from the information-

providing server, acquires a program list on which a program time is described for each program; and

a reservation-information update section which updates the reservation information that is stored in the reservation-information memory, based on the acquired program list, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time after a program-recording completion time which is described in the reservation information; and

the program reservation-and-recording apparatus further comprises:

a program division means that, on a basis of the program list acquired at the time after the program-recording completion time where an actual program time and program identification information of each program having already been broadcasted and having completed to be recorded are described in chronological order, divides the programs having already completed to be recorded, within a recording time for the program whose recording has already been completed, in accordance with the program identification information described in the program list in the chronological order; and

an erasure control section which makes a decision, on a basis of the reservation information stored in the reservation-information memory and the program list acquired at the time after the program-recording completion time, whether or not an unreserved program is included within a recording time for the program, and if it is included, erases the unreserved program from the recording medium.

14. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section and a time subsequent to it;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the reservation-information input section includes a program-identifier extraction section which extracts the program identifier which corresponds to a program for which a

reservation is made by the user from the program list acquired at the time when the program is reserved, and stores it as a part of the reservation information in the reservation-information memory; and

the reservation-information update section compares the program identifier of the program for which the reservation is made and a program identifier on the program list acquired after the time when the reservation is made, and retrieves information on the program list so as to update the reservation information.

15. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section and a time subsequent to it;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the reservation-information input section includes a program-identifier extraction section which extracts the program identifier which corresponds to a program for which a reservation is made by the user from the program list acquired at the time when the program is reserved, and stores it as a part of the reservation information in the reservation-information memory; and

the reservation-information update section compares the program identifier of the program for which the reservation is made and a program identifier on the program list acquired after the time when the reservation is made, and retrieves information on the program list so as to update the reservation information.

16. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 13, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section and a time subsequent to it;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the reservation-information input section includes a program-identifier extraction section which extracts the program identifier which corresponds to a program for which a reservation is made by the user from the program list acquired at the time when the program is reserved, and stores it as a part of the reservation information in the reservation-information memory; and

the reservation-information update section compares the program identifier of the program for which the reservation is made and a program identifier on the program list acquired after the time when the reservation is made, and retrieves information on the program list so as to update the reservation information.

17. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the program identifier includes an identifier for identifying whether or not a corresponding program is a final one of serial programs; and

the reservation update section erases the contents of a periodic recording reservation for the serial programs from the reservation information based on the identifier, after a recording of the final program is completed.

18. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the program identifier includes an identifier for identifying whether or not a corresponding program is a final one of serial programs; and

the reservation update section erases the contents of a periodic recording reservation for the serial programs from the reservation information based on the identifier, after a recording of the final program is completed.

19. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 13, wherein:

a time when the program-list acquisition section acquires the program list includes a time when a program reservation is made in the reservation-information input section;

the program list includes a program identifier for each program which is a code for identifying a program;

the program identifier includes an identifier for identifying whether or not a corresponding program is a final one of serial programs; and

the reservation update section erases the contents of a periodic recording reservation for the serial programs from the reservation information based on the identifier, after a recording of the final program is completed.

20. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

an apparatus-identifier memory which stores an apparatus identifier for identifying the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself; and

an apparatus-identifier transmission section which transmits the apparatus identifier to the information-providing server when communication is executed between the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself and the information-providing server.

21. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

an apparatus-identifier memory which stores an apparatus identifier for identifying the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself; and

an apparatus-identifier transmission section which transmits the apparatus identifier to the information-providing server when communication is executed between the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself and the information-providing server.

22. (New) The program reservation-and-recording apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

an apparatus-identifier memory which stores an apparatus identifier for identifying the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself; and

an apparatus-identifier transmission section which transmits the apparatus identifier to the information-providing server when communication is executed between the program reservation-and-recording apparatus itself and the information-providing server.

23. (New) A program reservation-and-recording system, comprising:

a plurality of the program reservation-and-recording apparatuses according to claim 10; and

an information-providing server which is connected via a general-purpose network to the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses and sends the program list in response to a request from the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses.

24. (New) A program reservation-and-recording system, comprising:

a plurality of the program reservation-and-recording apparatuses according to claim 12; and

an information-providing server which is connected via a general-purpose network to the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses and sends the program list in response to a request from the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses.

25. (New) A program reservation-and-recording system, comprising:

a plurality of the program reservation-and-recording apparatuses according to claim 13; and

an information-providing server which is connected via a general-purpose network to the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses and sends the program list in response to a request from the plurality of program reservation-and-recording apparatuses.